

Pattern Projection Techniques for Volumetric 3D Displays and 2D Displays

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This invention is related to U.S. Patent No. 5,754,147 issued 5/19/98, No. 5,954,414 issued 9/21/99, U.S. patent application Sr. No. 09/218,938 filed 12/22/98, and U.S. patent application Sr. No. 09/253,656 filed 2/20/99.

ABSTRACT

This invention relates generally to image projection methods and apparatus for creating color or gray scale images using spatial light modulators (SLMs) without color or gray capability. The basic concept is to divide the pixels on a single SLM into multiple groups and then illuminate each group with a different primary color. The content of the single SLM panel can then be programmed as if there are multiple sub-panels illuminated with different primary colors. The combined image on the single panel therefore displays images of many colors. Illumination can be achieved by projection of a pattern of color or gray scale distribution to the surface of the SLM panel and registering the pattern to corresponding pixel groups; or can be implemented by applying a proximity pattern close to the SLM surface. This technique can be applied to volumetric 3D displays, 2D displays, and optical correlators.

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